

Leadership in Value-Giving

Demonstrated by the

Thalhimer Store News for To-morrow

New Laces, New Trimmings, New Embroideries.

Words are inadequate to express the charm of the new goods daily arriving. We are showing the new Antique and Cluny Laces, new Bulgarian and Persian Trimmings, new Motifs and Pendants, new Salloons and Appliques. Throughout the selection is a certain refinement which stamps at once their exclusiveness. Indeed, our one aim is to bring out something different from the general run. A large assortment, yet never too much of any one kind as to become common. This, together with reasonable prices, makes them extremely desirable.

White Dress Goods.

Of the beauty of the White Goods we are so fortunate as to be able to place on early sale there can be no question. Every purchaser is enthusiastic. As usual, Thalhimer's lead in exclusive styles. 32-inch Plain White Oxford Waistings, very cheap, 10 to 2-3c. 3 cases of Fine Imported White Warp Piques at 25c. The greatest bargain ever shown in White Striped-Waist Fabrics is our 30-inch Mercerized Stripes, 25c. Silk Canvas Effects in Leno Brocades, for waists, at 35c. See those lovely fabrics in Mercerized Brocades, all new patterns and a 75c. value, at 30c. New White Cream Vestings, 50 to 75c. We have a special fine quality of 36-inch Sheer English Nainsook, in 12-yard bolts, for this week only, \$1.50 a bolt. Our 40-inch India Linen at 15c. is a bargain. We call attention to a special number of 48-inch Hand-Woven Batiste, worth 75c., this week's price at 60c. 30-inch Linen Duck, 35 and 50c.

Big Values in Lace Curtains.

All styles of Lace Curtains—Nottingham, Irish Points, Brussels, Renaissance and Arabian—where we have but one pair of a pattern, to close them out we have marked them half price. Ruffled Swiss Curtains, with cotton torchon lace insertion and edge, extra good quality, at \$1.50 pair.

Matting Sale.

Never before have we been able to offer such an immense assortment of patterns of China Matting at such phenomenally low prices. There are at least 30 different patterns of extra heavy China Matting—a few the only one or two rolls of a pattern—all are this season's importations. Other stores sell these same kinds at 35 to 40c. a yard, and they are worth those prices. This is a rare opportunity to buy these Matting at 25c.

Riches Dress Goods Ever Shown in City

We shall show to-morrow, for sale, the richest, most exquisite collection of very high-class materials for Evening Street Gowns ever shown in this city. 42-inch Knickerbocker Etonians, blue and white, green and white, black and white, \$1.00. 44-inch Knickerbocker Mohairs, \$1.00. 44-inch Knickerbocker Novelty, very stylish, \$1.50. 60-inch Fleeced Novelty, tailor suit weight, fleeced with white, green and blue, \$1.00. 62-inch Satin Venetians, for tailored suits, light blue, grays, greens, and castors, \$1.00. 30-inch Shepherd's Checked Suitings, for shirt-waist suits, very popular, 60c. 46-inch Handsome Pin-Stripe, Highly-Finished Silk Mohair, for suits and waists, \$1.50.

New Spring Wash Goods.

We show to-morrow the handsomest and most varied collection of Wash Goods ever exhibited. 32-inch Fine 16 to 2-3c. Quality Madras for 12 1/2c. yard. 12 1/2c. Pretty Madras Cloth for 10c. yard. Handsome Figured Mercerized Madras at 25c. yard. 100 pieces New English Percales to sell 12 1/2c. yard. 1 lot of 10 and 12 1/2c. quality Fine Madras to close out at 7c. yard.

Basement Leaders.

Thin-Blown Tumblers, worth 75c. dozen, for 2 1/2c. each. 25c. Crystal Gas Globes for 10c. each. 3-quart Granite Saucepans, with tops, the 42c. size, for 31c. 2c. for Good Size Best Tin Wash Basins. \$9.00 Handsomely Decorated 100-piece Dinner Sets for \$8.00 set. 75c. dozen White China Cups and Saucers for 4c. pair. 85c. White China Soup, also Breakfast Plates, for 4c. each. 3 1/2-pound Japanned Tin Sugar Boxes, worth 10c., for 10c. each.

Silk Suits elegant and refined, suitable for all occasions, are shown in Satin Foulards and Taffetas. Prices, \$12.50 to \$35.00.

Tailor-Made Suits Never a better variety of styles displayed. The perfectly plain tailor-made Gowns, with strappless seams, always in good taste, are shown as well as the English Coat, Louis XIV Coats and the becoming blouse style. Skirts are flared tunic effect and panel fronts, with hip trimmings.

Our Leaders All-Wool Black Cheviot Suits and Fancy Mixtures, in blue and gray. Eton and blouse jackets, 6-gored flare skirts over mercerized drop-skirt, \$12.50. Broadcloth Suits, collarless blouse, taffeta trimmed, tab fronts, skirts panel effect and trimmed with 3 circular bands; also Light Gray English Coat Walking Suits; 2 elegant suit values, at \$15.00.

Novelty cloth, gray and blue mixtures, blouse jacket, deep shoulder caps, piped with taffeta, Persian vest, flare skirt, unlined, much admired, at \$20.00. Louis XIV Coat Suits, collarless, shoulder caps, tucked and tunic skirts, taffeta lined jackets, unlined skirts, on train, material broadcloth and tulle, at \$25.00 and \$30.00.

About Our Coats.

Your choice of material and styles are shown in all the new designs of Plain Tailor-Made Coats in different length Silk Coats, in Ping-Pong Coats, box effects and Louis XIV style. Silk Coats, ping-pong effects, in taffeta and peau de soie, \$5.00 to \$12.50. Louis XIV Coats, plain and lace trimmed, \$10.00 to \$25.00. Covert Jackets, \$5.00 to \$12.50.

Wash Waists and Wash Suits.

Our line of Summer Waists and Suits is now complete, and the exceptional values have been well appreciated by the ladies of Richmond. The popular flat-Plain Linen Waists, extra quality, new cut, to be worn plain or embroidered, \$2.48. Handsome Hand-Embroidered Waists, plain linen and butcher's linen, \$3.48 and \$7.48. Heavy Madras Waists, broad tucks, large buttons and new mercerized linen effects, \$1.00, \$2.48, and \$3.48 and \$4.08, plain and trimmed.

High Values in Tailored Suits and Skirts.

This Department Abounds With all the Brightness of Spring. A Glittering Array of New Ideas and New Materials.

Walking Skirts.

All-Wool Gray and Tan Walking Skirts, cut full flare, double stitched, straps ending at flare, with fine corded fan effect around bottom, beautifully tailored, special at \$5.00. Perfect Fitting Walking Skirts, in blue, black and gray cloth, box plaited flare, strap seams forming panel front, and yoke trimming, very effective and stylish, at \$7.48. Elegant Tan Covert and Fancy Striped and Check Novelty, in up-to-date Walking Skirts, cut circular flare and 7-gored strap seams, yoke trimming and special tailoring, several different styles, at \$10.00.

Ladies' Dress Skirts.

All-Wool Black Cheviot Skirts, 6-gore flare, with 3 bands of taffeta forming panel front, and yoke trimming, percale lining, special at \$5.00. Black and Blue Voile Skirts, with plaited circular flares, headed with peau de soie bands, also hip trimming, strictly new and stylish, \$7.48. Elegant Cloth Skirts, in black and blue, with fitted yoke and panel front, trimmed with bands, and perpendicular bands of peau de soie to flare, \$10.00. Fine Black Voile Skirts, 7-gore flare, seams covered with silk braid and bands of hemstitched taffeta covering flare, the popular skirt for spring wear and very dressy, at \$12.50.

New Silk Waists.

Pin-Striped Taffeta Silk Waists, with strap yoke trimming, piped with black, green or red, and finished with crocheted rings, full flare sleeves, special at \$5.00. White Peau de Ceyne Waists, with ripple cape effect, giving long waist, trimmed with eoru inserting, full pouch sleeve, at \$5.48. Elegant White Peau de Ceyne Waists, with large cape collar, trimmed in handsome applique designs, giving very beautiful effect, these have newest, puff sleeves, for \$12.50. Our sale of \$7.48 and \$5.00 Silk Waists still continues; bargains at \$3.08.

"BOBS" His Trials, Tribulations and Triumphs.

By REGINALD LANG. | Copyright by Philip Little.

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By Reginald Lang.

CHAPTER I.

"You lie! I never killed a man while in business."

"Well, Rags said you did. Don't get frouchy. You ain't frouchy, you fool. If Rags said so he lied, and I can prove it. I've been too long in this business not to know that simple breakin' and enterin' ain't nothin' to killin' a man. No first-class man in this profession would think of doin' such a thing, see?"

"Gentlemen, gentlemen," said a third, taking his pipe out of his mouth, "pray cease this useless wrangling. 'Shorty' is satisfied in his own mind that he has never broken through the etiquette of the profession, and the word of a gentleman is sufficient. 'Shorty,' sit down, Keegan, be seated. Such quarrels or discussions simply take us away from the subject in hand."

"Lord, don't let me talk like a book. Say, London, where did you get it all?"

"By 'all' I suppose you refer to my education. You needn't think that I am going to regale you with the story of my life, for I am not. Suffice it to say that I am what you call a professional house-breaker, as you can guess."

"O, that's dead easy to see. You are as well as any knows that. Didn't I see you at D. 'Shorty,' or I'll throw this mug down your throat, and a wicked glint of the eyes made the man addressed as 'Shorty' duck his head and remain silent."

"I will simply say for your edification that I was educated at Oxford. Do you know where that is? No? Well, it is a greater university than either Yale or Harvard in this country, and very much older. It is in England, and takes the lead in all educational as well as religious matters."

"Gosh, ain't he great, Keeg?"

"I thank you for your admiration, but to continue and conclude. I supposed myself the heir to a title and a fortune as my older brother's wife promised to be childless and I was the next of kin; when suddenly she took it into her head to produce a fine boy, and my chances were blasted. I left a crop of debts and came here."

"Then you was knocked out of being a lord and gettin' the bootle."

"That is about it, 'Shorty,' though I have hopes. The child was stolen when five years old, and my brother died from a broken heart, whatever that may be."

"Say, why don't you step in, old man?"

"I'm not an 'old man,' and I object to your familiarity."

"Gee, ain't he great?"

"Is not because of any noblesse on my part, I assure you, 'Shorty,' but if I should happen to become a lord, as I may, I could not associate with you any longer, and I do not wish to foster any of future intimacy in your gutter."

"What are you givin' us? Do you expect to be a lord? Is that it?"

"It is, as you term it, straight."

"Then do you expect to be a bloomin' lord?"

"That I also do not know. My nephew, though stolen, is alive and well, and word is occasionally sent that he will be kept, and not returned until he is 25, unless previously killed by accident."

"Say, ain't that a fairy story?"

"Do you suppose that I would waste my time inventing such a yarn as that to tell you?"

"O, I don't know. You beat all when you get on your war paint."

"Perhaps so, but this is a most unpleasantly true story, I assure you. Now, let us talk business. When are we to do the Van Nostrand house?"

It and closed it quietly as he went in. "Blessed if he don't beat all! Most boys would have told me to shut up, or something pleasant, but that chap never answers and never has since he was a kid."

"Where did you get him, Reddie?"

"Son of a sister of mine. She died and I took him and brought him up."

"And a fine profession you put him to, say, London."

"Well, that's my business, Mr. British, and I don't want any of your sneers."

"You mistake me, my friend. I admire your choice. He is a fine-looking lad, even if he is a bit rough in his make-up. I suppose that that goes with his part. Where did he get those eyes and that mouth? Your sister must have been a great beauty. Now, I admire your talents, but no one would choke you for your looks." He dodged his head so that a pewter mug just missed him.

"Well, Reddie, I am used to your ways, Reddie, my man."

"You needn't ask any more questions about that boy, just the same. I'll look after him and don't you fret. Are you going to talk business, or what is up, anyhow?"

"Business it is, Reddie. 'Shorty,' give us that plan of the Van Nostrand house. Well, here is a small window through which the boy could crawl easily. Then there is a short flight up to the level of the street. You see the side door is down in an area, so that we can keep safe in the house, and the small window without being seen from the sidewalk."

"Great stuff, London, you're a genius," said Reddie, stuffing him on the back.

"Look here, Reddie, I appreciate your enthusiasm and admiration for my plan, which I admit is well merited, but I object to having my lungs tested and my spinal column, if you know what that is, dislocated by that trip-hammer fist of yours."

"All right, London. I didn't know that you were so delicate."

"I'm not delicate, you ass! But if there is anything that I hate it is to be banged on the back. That is all there is to it."

"Well, go on with your explanation of the plan, and I will try and not show my feelings."

"All right; see that you don't. Now, here is the hall floor, and this is the hall. You see that it is a big room, with the stairs coming down the center of one side."

"Must be a fine house."

"Fine? My dear 'Shorty,' you will lose your breath with admiration when you see it. It is beautiful."

"How do you know? Is that one of your—"

"Remember what I said a short time ago. Try that again and you will regret it."

"All right, London; I forgot."

"Well, shut up, then. Here is the dining-room, and right over the side of the hall, and it is chock full of silver and, they say, some valuable jewels."

"Shall we have to blow it open?"

"No, we can bore through the lock. It is not much of a safe. I do not understand that old Van Nostrand is thinking of, I am sure, to keep such an old-fashioned thing."

"Sayin' we are surprised?"

"There are two ways of getting out; drop out of the dining-room windows or make for the front door. If you go out of the window, just open the yard gate and you are out on a passageway and off you go."

"Where are the sleeping rooms?"

"Up two flights in one case, but the two up there are well out of the way in the back of the house. The old man has a big study or library on one flight all for himself, as his lower floor is given up to entertaining."

"Well, it seems easy, but I need all at present he has a nephew visiting from the south. The old man sleeps up one flight in the rooms I have spoken of, the other is unoccupied."

"Worth it? Why, man, the jewels alone are said to be worth from eight to ten thousand dollars, and I have information that the old man has put away some gold and bills there a short time ago."

to the sum of \$7,000. Does that strike you at all?"

"Say, that is a good thing; no, I won't hit you again. Shall we have Bobs in? What does he do?"

"He goes through the window that I spoke of and drops down inside. He unlocks the door, and lets us in. While we do the safe he will keep watch, and if there is any danger he gives the alarm and we get out."

"Shall we have him in?"

"I suppose so; he keeps pretty quiet, doesn't he? You've trained him well."

"O, he's all right; he knows how to keep his mouth shut, you can bet your life."

Reddie went to the door, London following him quietly and unnoticed. The former opened the door to find the boy staring intently at a magazine.

"Come, Bobs, we want to show you your lay," said Reddie, standing in the doorway.

"The boy did not move, he was so intent on the book in front of him."

"Come along; what is the matter with you?" and Reddie stepped over the lad.

As he looked at the page that the boy's eyes were fixed on, he uttered a suppressed exclamation and grabbed the book hurriedly as he cuffed the boy over the ears.

"I'll teach you to look at books and not answer me when I speak to you. Don't you let me catch you a lookin' at picture books when I want you! Do you hear?"

He took the lad by the coat collar and brought him to his feet, but no reply came from his lips, and his eyes had a faraway look. Reddie threw the magazine down on the table, and London saw the title on the cover. It was one of the great monthlies, and could not possibly do any harm to the boy anyway. Why should he not read it?

Reddie turned, and seeing London in the doorway, stepped back quickly to the table, picked up the pamphlet and put it in his pocket.

"I didn't mean to be so hard on you, Bobs, but we are in a hurry." His looks were shifty and uneasy, and his change of manner made London think that there was something in the paper which he wished to conceal.

"Let the boy read," said the Englishman, "it will do him no harm, and will improve his mind. The brighter and better educated London think that there was something in the paper which he wished to conceal."

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and that should make them sleep a bit heavier than usual."

"To-morrow night, then. We meet here at midnight?"

"Yes; no earlier is of any use. You will bring Bobs with you, I take it?"

"Yes, I'll take care of him safe enough. He is too valuable to part with."

"It is pleasant to see an uncle so devoted to his nephew as you are, Reddie. 'Shut up, will you, and stow your gab? I'm tired of such talk.'"

"All right, man, only don't get angry because I appreciate your devotion. They all got up after this, and putting on their coats and hats stole quietly downstairs and out into the street. The Englishman turned the first corner and was lost in the crowd. Hailing a passing hansom he gave an order and later left himself in with a pass key at the door of a quiet-looking house on a side street."

CHAPTER III.

"Whom are you expecting to-night at your dinner, Nellie?" asked Mr. Van Nostrand, as he leaned up against the mantel in his study and sipped a cup of tea, which his daughter had made for him.

"The Van Rensselaers, the Farlows, Jack Morgan, Peggy de Witt, the Pearlings, the Freemans, Minnie Van Adam and Hon. George Carlingford."

"The most charming Englishman that has been in this part of the world for a long time, papa. He is tall, handsome, agreeable and, wonder of wonders, bright. He can see an American joke without having it explained to him."

"Hum. Then am afraid that he is either a scamp or something odd."

"Odd he certainly is, but a scamp, never. Trust a woman's intuition for that."

"Woman's intuition! I would not give the snap of my finger for a woman's intuition. What and who is he anyway, and where did you meet him?"

"He brought letters to the Van Rensselaers, and he is, believe me, the prospective heir to a fortune. That matters but little for he is very evidently rich. Mr. Van Rensselaer says that he pays his bills and insists on taking his shares of all profits."

"He must be a phenomenon, judging from the specimens of his countrymen that I have met over here. Still, I do not come to your dinner to-night."

"O, papa, how good of you. Why did you not tell me before? I would have had some old lady for you to take home."

"Old lady to take home? No, my dear, I will take in a young one or none, and let it be the latter, as I can then leave as soon as I choose."

"Very well, dear; you shall do as you choose. I feel deeply honored that you will be with me to-night."

"It is one of my whims. I want to meet your handsome foreigner. An Englishman can take an American joke—he must indeed be an extraordinary person."

CHAPTER IV.

The ladies had left the room and Mr. Van Nostrand had moved to Carlingford's side.

"I am glad, Mr. Carlingford, to see one of your countrymen at my table. I seldom appear in my daughter's dinners, as an old man in out of place at such functions, but hearing that you were to be here, I broke through my rule. I lived in England for ten years as a young man."

"But, Mr. Van Nostrand, you are not what we call old with us. You are hale and hearty and should not deprive people of your society."

"The average person bores me terribly, Carlingford, to tell the truth, and my books are my refuge. Those and my collection of gems are my hobby. Do you care at all about precious stones?"

"Yes, indeed, and have picked up many a good one in my wanderings. A curious expression flitted across his face, part amusement and part sarcasm."

"Perhaps so, my friend, but I need all my wits to carry out these great enterprises of ours, and it will not do for us to be caught napping."

"When shall we make the game?" asked Reddie, fingering the book in his pocket.

"I think that to-morrow night will be best. There is to be a big dinner there, I find, and probably all hands will be tired, and undoubtedly the butler and footmen will drink up the remains of the wine."

various sizes, but most of them were very large and of wonderful color."

"These are wonderful, Mr. Van Nostrand," exclaimed Carlingford with a note of sincere admiration in his voice, which pleased the old man hugely.

"I have never seen, even in Paris, anything to equal these. How do you dare to keep them in the house?"

"I have thought myself of late that I was running a great risk, as they are a fortune in themselves, together with my rubies and diamonds, but Green here has people that have seen them, and no one else knows the combination, nor how to slide the panel, and I shall soon take them to a bank and out of harm's way. There have been some daring robberies of late, and I hardly like to trust them in that safe."

"You are taking a great risk, but as you say, it is in safe hands, I mean the knowledge of the safe and the panel."

"You have other stones, I judge?"

"Yes, here are some rubies that I got in Persia and here are some diamonds from Kimberley, the first, almost to come out; in fact, I believe they were in the first lot brought from South Africa."

"You are a good judge, evidently, Mr. Van Nostrand. These are the real pigeon-blood rubies, and large stones, too. Your daughter should wear some of these."

"My daughter, curiously enough, dislikes gems as much as I like them, and she will have none of them. She objects to my having them in the house."

"Is she superstitious on the subject? The opals are the only stones that I know of that are supposed to bring bad luck and even that is questioned. I know people that have superstitious and equally good luck; it would be difficult to convince them that the stones are unlucky."

"No, it is not superstition with my daughter. She simply does not like them."

"Well, I must thank you for a great treat, though I cannot commend you for tempting fortune as you do, by keeping them in what I should consider a very unsafe place."

"I suppose that you are right, but what pleasure shall I have from them after I send them to a bank? I might as well give them away. I cannot be running to see them every day or so. Here I take them to my library and look at them whenever I feel like it."

"True, and it is your affair. I trust that you will pardon me for, as a stranger, taking the liberty of criticizing your arrangements."

"I feel complimented that you should take such an interest in my gems. Carlingford, my return then to the safe. Gentlemen, shall we joint the ladies?"

The host rose and led the way to the drawing-room. As they passed through the hall, Carlingford paused.

"This is a large house for a city, Mr. Van Nostrand, and unless I am mistaken you have had in your rear, or on one side, at least, I thought I saw it as I came up to the door from the side street."

"Yes, this land is part of a farm belonging to my great-great-grandfather. My grandfather sold part of it for a great deal of money, and built the original house. The land increased in value, the house in size, as can be seen. Little did my ancestor realize the value that his farm would attain in years to come."

"Your people were in the Dutch East India trade, were they not?"

"Yes; why do you ask?"

"Because mine were also, and I see many curios here similar to those in the old place on the other side. Those spears and clubs are from Java, I think."